



Communications Board
Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Monroe County, New York

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Laurence Vaughan
Chairman

MINUTES OF MEETING: March 17, 2005

VOTING MEMBERS: Dick Barrett, Patty Bietry, Steve Bowman, Jay Coates, Jack DeLisio, Scott Lancaster, Steve McClary, John Merklinger, Brian Peartree, Diana Pfersick, Dave Timmons, Larry Vaughan, Tim Warth and Rick Zwaga

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Tom Link, Dave Pierce, Rich Verdouw and Hank Wehner

OTHERS ATTENDING: Ted Aroesty, Kevin Crouch, Larry Pierce and Rick Tracy

EXCUSED: Tom Coyle, Tim Czapranski, Mike Lissow, Ed Mager and Ed Riley

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Vaughan at 5:00 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Steve Bowman to approve the February meeting minutes, seconded by Rick Zwaga with the following change under "Old Business". It should read as follows: **Ed Riley reported Monroe County fire departments are now 100% ready to comply financially with the survey he sent out regarding narrowband transitioning. Carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no correspondence items needing to be addressed at this meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reframing Committee – No report.

Digital Paging Committee – Rich Verdouw reported we are still “on schedule”. The FCC notified the County that due to paperwork being filed in error, the outbound paging frequency is in “termination”. A STA (Special Temporary Authority) has been filed with the FCC to retain the frequency while the FCC is petitioned for reconsideration. Gary Perkins is assisting the County with this request. As of this date, a total of 1,533 pagers have been ordered. Steve Bowman requested any calls be directed to him or Rich Verdouw if there are any questions or concerns regarding pager orders. Rich Verdouw informed us that TGA has placed a “hold” on the processing of orders until they are assured of the minimum order of 5,000 pagers. Rich is confident we can reach that goal with the surrounding counties adding to the current total. Contracts, along with approval from the Monroe County and surrounding county legislatures, are the major hurdle at this time.

Communications Rules & Regulations Committee – Diana Pfersick reported she and Hank Wehner will work on soon submitting a draft of this new handbook for board members to review and make any comments and/or suggestions before it is finalized for distribution.

OLD BUSINESS

Rich Verdouw had a discussion recently with Chief Ted Aroesty (Brighton) regarding Minitor 5 issues. Chief Jack DeLisio (Egypt) also expressed concerns as well. Timing is the main concern – digital pagers are most important. Chief DeLisio feels much work needs to be done, and they are concerned the deadlines that are currently set in place cannot be met. The need is imperative to continue to work towards the deadlines with possible flexibility for an extension of a time period from 6 months to 1 year. It was agreed digital paging comes first, but it was emphasized that voice paging **MUST NOT** be taken away. After much discussion, it was suggested that instead of setting a target date to instead issue a “goal” once compliance is achieved. Steve Bowman suggested the battalion reps share this information with their respective departments.

NEW BUSINESS

There were several additional questions raised regarding paging in general: Will the battalion reps still be able to be narrowband compliant? How many digital pagers have the battalion reps ordered? How many digital pagers do the battalion reps currently have on the county systems? Will the battalion reps be using tone and voice or digital paging for the primary alert when the narrowband goes into effect? The battalion reps were instructed to gather this information from their respective agencies and report back to us at our next meeting.

BATTALION REPORTS

Due to the length of this meeting, the battalion reps agreed there were no other issues or concerns needing to be addressed at this time.

911 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Merklinger reported the following: They are putting together a PowerPoint presentation to show at the various battalion meetings explaining the wireless technology and how it works. It will include the accuracy, etc. of the new technology.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD

Brian Peartree thanked John Merklinger for the assistance of his staff to the Brighton Fire Department.

Patty Bietry thanked Dick Barrett and Jim Weichman for their time to meet with the 5th battalion, spending nearly 2 hours answering questions and concerns at their recent meeting, which was held on March 2nd at the West Brighton Fire Department.

A motion to adjourn was then made by Steve Bowman, seconded by Dick Barrett. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Fire/EMS Communications Board is scheduled for Thursday April 21st, 2005, 5:00 pm, at the Public Safety Training Facility in the STEP Conference Room.

Larry Mancine, Secretary
Fire/EMS Communications Board